

WE CLAIM

1. A network element having a transcoder for  
transcoding content of a content creator **characterized in**  
**that** the transcoder has a transcoder operation module for  
5 transcoding the content based on permissible transcoding  
operations authorized by the content creator.

2. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the network element is a creator  
10 terminal, a content provider, a proxy/gateway or a client  
terminal.

3. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the permissible transcoding  
15 operations include any transformation, alteration or  
manipulation of the content permitted by the content  
creator.

4. A network element according to claim 1,  
20 **characterized in that** the permissible transcoding  
operations include a resolution reduction module for  
reducing the resolution of the content.

5. A network element according to claim 4,  
**characterized in that** the content is reduced by either a  
maximum decimation factor or ratio or a minimum  
resolution in pixels.

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6. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the permissible transcoding  
operations include an aspect ratio modification for  
specifying a maximum deformation that can be applied to  
10 the content when modifying its resolution.

7. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the permissible transcoding  
operations include a color and bits per pixel  
15 modification for specifying if an image can be converted  
to gray scale or not, and minimum bits per pixel or  
number of colors or levels that can be used.

8. A network element according to claim 1,  
20 **characterized in that** the permissible transcoding  
operations include cropping for specifying a region of an  
original picture that must be preserved.

9. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the permissible transcoding  
operations include a quality reduction for allowing the  
content to be further modified by adding some distortions  
5 to an image.

10. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** a sequence of permissible image  
transcoding operations for image content includes  
10 cropping, an aspect ratio modification, a color and bits  
per pixel modification and a resolution reduction.

11. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the content includes images,  
15 graphics, video or audio.

12. A network element according to claim 1,  
**characterized in that** the transcoder responds to a signal  
containing the content and information about the  
20 permissible transcoding operations that may be applied on  
the content permissible by the content creator.

13. A network element according to claim 12,  
**characterized in that** the transcoder applies the  
permissible transcoding operations on the content and  
provides a transcoded content signal containing  
5 information about a transcoded content.

14. A method for transcoding content of a content  
creator **characterized in that** the method includes a step  
of transcoding the content based on permissible  
10 transcoding operations authorized by the content creator.

15. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in  
that** the method is performed in a creator terminal, a  
content provider, a proxy/gateway, a client terminal, or  
15 a combination thereof.

16. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in  
that** the permissible transcoding operations include any  
transformation, alteration or manipulation of the content  
20 permitted by the content creator.

17. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in  
that** the permissible transcoding operations include a  
resolution reduction for reducing the resolution of the  
25 content.

18. A method according to claim 17, **characterized in that** the content is reduced by either a maximum decimation factor or ratio or a minimum resolution in pixels.

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19. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in that** the permissible transcoding operations include an aspect ratio modification for specifying a maximum deformation that can be applied to the content when  
10 modifying its resolution.

20. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in that** the permissible transcoding operations include a color and bits per pixel modification for specifying if  
15 an image can be converted to gray scale or not, and minimum bits per pixel or number of colors or levels that can be used.

21. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in that** the permissible transcoding operations include  
20 cropping for specifying a region of an original picture that must be preserved.

22. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in that** the permissible transcoding operations include a quality reduction for allowing the content to be further modified by adding some distortions to an image.

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23. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in that** a sequence of permissible image transcoding operations for image content include cropping, an aspect ratio modification, a color and bits per pixel  
10 modification and a resolution reduction.

24. A method according to claim 14, **characterized in that** the content includes images, graphics, video or audio.

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25. A network having a network element with a transcoder for transcoding content of a content creator  
**characterized in that** the transcoder has a transcoder operation module for transcoding the content based on  
20 permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator.

26. A network according to claim 25, **characterized**  
**in that** the network includes a creator terminal, a  
content provider, a proxy/gateway, a client terminal or a  
combination thereof, one or more of which having a  
5 respective transcoder with a respective transcoder  
operation module for transcoding the content based on  
permissible transcoding operations authorized by the  
content creator.

10 27. A network according to claim 25, **characterized**  
**in that** the network includes a content provider having a  
respective transcoder with a respective transcoder  
operation module for at least partially transcoding the  
content based on permissible transcoding operations  
15 authorized by the content creator.

20 28. A network according to claim 25, **characterized**  
**in that** the network includes a proxy/gateway having a  
respective transcoder with a respective transcoder  
operation module for at least partially transcoding the  
content based on permissible transcoding operations  
authorized by the content creator.

29. A network according to claim 25, **characterized**  
**in that** the network includes a client terminal having a  
respective transcoder with a respective transcoder  
operation module for at least partially transcoding the  
5 content based on permissible transcoding operations  
authorized by the content creator.